

WISCASSET BOARD OF SELECTMEN,
TAX ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR
MARCH 19, 2019

Present: Kim Andersson, Bob Blagden, Chair Judy Colby, Kathy Martin-Savage, Vice Chair Ben Rines, Jr. and Interim Town Manager John O'Connell

Chair Judy Colby called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Treasurer's Warrants

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the payroll warrant of March 15, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the accounts payable warrant of March 19, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.

3. Approval of Minutes

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2019 as amended. Vote 5-0-0.

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of March 12, 2019. Vote 5-0-0.

4. Special Presentations or Awards

Chair Judy Colby presented the Maine Municipal Association's Essay Contest Winner Award to Grace Greene together with a gift certificate for \$250.00

5. Committee Appointments

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to appoint Donald James to the Shellfish Committee. Vote 5-0-0.

Kim Andersson moved to appoint Sue Robson to the Waterfront Committee. Vote 3-2-0 (Rines and Blagden opposed).

6. Public Hearings – none

7. Public Comment

Marty Fox who opposes the New England Connect Energy Corridor read a letter written September 21, 2017 from Marian Anderson, then Town Manager, to CMP indicating that the board voted to support the NECEC. Judy Colby said she did not remember the board voting to support the NECEC and she would need to verify through a search of minutes that the board had voted to approve the corridor. Subsequently, a review of the minutes indicated there was no vote on 9/19/17. Fox said Anderson's letter was on the corridor's website and asked the board to reconsider. Jim Kochan said the DOT was soliciting a letter of support at that meeting in 2017. The matter will be on the agenda in two weeks and discussed further under Other Board Business.

Kim Dolce asked, if legally possible, to have a statement on the warrant indicating whether the budget number is an increase or decrease from the previous year's budget. Also, could it indicate that property taxes would increase or decrease depending upon what percent the budget was increased or decreased. Judy Colby said it would depend on State regulations and she would check if it would be possible.

8. Department Head or Committee Chair

a. Department Head February Monthly reports – Kim Andersson noted that the Wastewater Treatment Plant report was very thorough and was useful in budgeting for next year.

9. Unfinished Business

a. Clean Up Grant RFP: John O'Connell said that minor revisions had been made. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to direct the Town Manager to submit the RFP as presented. Vote 5-0-0.**

b. Budget Calendar: March 20, 2019 – no budget meeting; Meetings on March 25 and 27, April 1 and 3 at 5 p.m.; Budget process should be complete by April 1.

c. Policy on Tax Lien and Sewer Lien Acquired Policy Revision: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to adopt the Policy on Tax Lien and Lien Acquired Property. Vote 5-0-0. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to rescind the vote on the Policy on Tax Lien and Lien Acquired Property. Vote 5-0-0. Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the Policy on Tax Lien and Sewer Lien Acquired Property. Vote 5-0-0.**

d. Tax Acquired Property Occupancy and Re-Purchase Agreement: **Judy Colby moved to adopt the Tax Acquired Property Occupancy and Re-purchase Agreement form. Vote 5-0-0**

e. Update on Pier Vendor Fees: O'Connell said Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission had submitted information on pier vendor fees in seaside communities. Many do not have kiosks on the municipal piers and those that do have kiosks have varying fees for varying sizes or duration of agreement. The average for the four communities that responded (Camden, Eastport, Lubec and Mt. Desert Island) is \$5,635/season, \$900/month, \$225/week and \$32/day. John O'Connell will ask the Waterfront Committee for recommendations. Jim Kochan said there had been no rate increase of any note for 20 years. He said he had submitted a recommendation for a graduated fee increase several weeks ago. He also said that because two of the current vendors are members of the Waterfront Committee, a quorum to vote on a recommendation from the Waterfront Committee would not be possible. He said the town should not have to underwrite other people's businesses on the pier. He added that almost all the money made on vendor fees this year went for maintenance. Judy Colby said the Waterfront Committee will be asked for its recommendation and the board will also review Jim Kochan's recommendation. It was suggested that vendor fees at farmers' markets be investigated.

10. New Business

a. February Monthly Financials

- Department year to date expense report: In response to Kim Andersson's question regarding Municipal Building Electric and other accounts, Vernice Boyce said she would get further information on the accounts before the next meeting.
- H.M.Payson Statement of Accounts

b. Quit Claim Deed

- Gary and Debbie Joslyn, Map R04: **Judy Colby moved to grant the quit claim deed for Gary and Debbie Joslyn. Vote 5-0-0.**

c. Watercraft Storage Rack Rental Policy Proposal – Peter Wells: Wells submitted a proposal for three rental waterfront storage racks which would be attached to the building at the pier and would have four shelves each for kayaks, canoes, or watercraft. The storage racks would be convenient for residents and would be an economic benefit for the Town. Phase I would be for one rental storage rack. The Waterfront Committee is in support. Each rack would cost \$760 which would include four I-bolts, not installation. He also submitted a draft rental agreement which would specify that the town had no responsibility- use of the racks would be at the renter’s risk. Other towns have rented spaces for \$30 to \$50 per season. There is a donor for Phase I of the project who would pay for the racks and I- bolts if the town would install them. The donor would also want rental space at no cost for their kayaks (at \$50 per year rent and \$760 donated for rack, the donor would get free rent for approximately five years). Jim Kochan said he supported the idea, but he said it would benefit a limited number of people. He said cheaper and more durable models could be constructed with donated time and materials. There was discussion on free-standing versus racks attached to the building, whether the racks attached to the building or free-standing year-round racks would require approval of the Historic Preservation Commission, alternate location for stand-alone racks, possibility of building racks in-house, testing the demand for one year, using a lottery system for spaces if the demand exceeds the supply, the return on investment would take approximately four years, and utilizing vacant space at the dock for stand-alone racks. The board will take a road trip to the waterfront to see if stand-alone racks would be an option. Wells will meet with the Historic Preservation Commission regarding any necessary approval.

d. Sunken Garden Discussion – Steve Christiansen: In 1958 the parcel of land known today as the Sunken Garden was given to the Town provided that no buildings be put on the property. If that condition was not met, the land would revert to the donors. In 1990 there was a request for funds for the Sunken Garden which Christiansen assumes was used for the shed. He concluded that the shed must be removed, or the property would revert to the heirs of the owners. The shed is used by the Garden Club and the Beautification Committee for gardening tools and supplies. Bob Blagden said the board should honor the conditions of the gift. **Kathy Martin-Savage moved to remove shed before Memorial Day.** A member of the Garden Club spoke about the need for a storage shed for their efforts in the Sunken Garden. It was mentioned that before the shed was erected, tools were kept in the barn of the Nichols-Sortwell House. O’Connell will contact Norma Gordon of the Beautification Committee regarding the tools in the garden shed. **Vote 5-0-0.**

e. Business License Approval – Edward Colburn, CBA Water Street Kitchen & Bar: **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the Business License for Edward Colburn, DBA Water Street Kitchen and Bar. Vote 5-0-0.**

f. Town Clock Maintenance Agreement with Balzer Family Clock Works: O’Connell said the clock tower itself needs work and Jason Putnam, who worked on the tower last year, will be contacted by John O’Connell to inspect the tower to see what repairs are necessary.

g. Friends of Wiscasset Village – Peter Wells, Mary Ellen Barnes: Barnes said the Friends of Wiscasset Village is an ad hoc committee with approximately 45 members whose mission is to communicate positive energy, to strengthen the local economy and community, to celebrate our unique treasures, and to welcome new neighbors and businesses. She outlined the activities of the group during the MDOT construction projects and other activities during the past fall and holiday shopping season. The

group is now focusing on sidewalk amenities, and Peter Wells introduced several design concepts for streetscape improvements including benches and trash receptacles. He illustrated the brick sidewalks (from 22 feet to 30 feet wide) with three Japanese Lilac trees on each side, three lights on each side and bollards. A sitting wall is also planned on the north side of the street. He presented drawings showing several concepts with benches, trash receptacles, planters and tables and chairs. He said there was no water access so a water truck would be needed for plants and trees. He asked for support for the origin of funds for the improvements and developing some amenities and going back to MDOT to see if they would help support. He said it would be better to install the amenities before the sidewalks are finished. In response to Ben Rines question, the cost of 8 benches and 4 trash receptacles is \$18,000 without installation. Installation would probably double that amount. Susan Blagden asked what the ongoing costs would be to maintain the amenities. Maryellen Barnes asked for the support of the town and asked to be authorized to communicate with the MDOT regarding the amenities and vendors.

In response to Judy Colby's question regarding funding, Barnes said the group was not asking for funding from the board, only the authorization to talk to the MDOT about its funding some of the amenities and then the balance would come from fundraising by the group. Kathy Martin-Savage said she had a problem with the committee speaking on behalf of the selectmen and the town and that John O'Connell could contact the MDOT to see if the amenities could be put back into the project. It was decided that O'Connell and Peter Wells would meet with the MDOT. Kim Andersson thanked the group for their work on the project. Jim Kochan said that at a May 2018 meeting, Ernie Martin had said that the MDOT was paying for all the amenities in the design, however, the PAC had agreed to give up the amenities that would have been free. In response to a question, Wells outlined the grades which were handicap accessible and those which did not require ramps.

11. Town Manager's Report

- a. John O'Connell announced the appointment of Theodore Snowdon as Director of Public Works
- b. A memo was received from John Carroll, CMP, confirming that the Union of Concerned Scientists was in favor of the NECEC project as he had mentioned at the last meeting, and he had provided Marty Fox with a copy of the UCS statement.
- c. A communication had been received from Lt. Murphy regarding costs of animal control and asking for a meeting to follow up on expenses.
- d. O'Connell will meet with Jason Putnam to look at the building housing the town clock to determine what work needs to be done. He will discuss with the Balzer representative repairs to keep the clock on time. Bob Blagden said there is a book available giving instructions on adjusting the clock. The maintenance agreement must be signed by July 1.
- e. O'Connell will meet with a representative of Wright Pierce on March 20 about possible grants for the wastewater treatment plant.

12. Assessors' Agent Recommended Abatements:

- Carroll M. Jones, Map R03, Lot 54-3-1, \$347.99
- Dennis Gauthier, Map R04, Lot 11C, \$152.49
- Scott Connors, Map R01, Lot 035-C02, \$318.67
- Gilbert H. Rines, Map R05, Lot 51-A2. \$95.80
- Sam Patterson, Map R07, Lot 039-19, \$146.63

Ben Rines, Jr., moved to approve the recommended abatements. Vote 5-0-0. He thanked the Treasurer for her explanation.

13. Other Board Business

Judy Colby asked whether a vote on the CMP plan should be on the next agenda. Regarding the letter on the CMP website citing Wiscasset's approval of the NECEC plan, Ben Rines, Jr., said the CMP had a false statement (regarding the board's support). Kim Andersson said she thought the board was supportive of the RFP when it was presented in 2017, and that Marian Andersson's letter of September 2017 was not inaccurate at that time. Kathy Martin-Savage said the original proposal was the subject of the meeting in 2017 but since then a second proposal had been made which is now being discussed. Bob Blagden said since the board had not acted, there was no action to be rescinded as requested earlier in the meeting. He said he did not favor putting the issue on the warrant because it was difficult to understand. Judy Colby said the board was receptive of the information given to the board in 2017 but the board has not taken a position on the NECEC project. **Ben Rines, Jr., moved to direct the Town Manager to contact CMP to specifically remove any references that imply support of the ongoing project from the onset to the present by the Town of Wiscasset from its website. Vote 5-0-0.**

Regarding the Monkey C Monkey Do water bill, Richard Gaeth, Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager, said that there are four meters on the property and that the property owners didn't understand the consumption of water that would result from power-washing the building. Chris Cossette, Wiscasset Water District, advised that no abatement should be recognized. Bob Blagden said the business should have had a separate water meter for power-washing.

Gaeth apologized for the length of his monthly report, but said he thought the board should be aware of what the department was doing. He hoped to get to the point where the reports would be proactive instead of reactive. A new DEP flow meter will be installed and at the next meeting Gaeth would like to address septic fees, providing information of surrounding areas. He asked if the board would contemplate giving a loan to the department from the Payson Fund of about \$25,000.

Gaeth said if there is \$5,000 in budget at the end of March, he would like to hire Ted Berry to do wet well work. He was advised that the request would be on the next agenda. Bob Blagden said the work should go out to bid.

Judy Colby asked the reporters to note that nomination papers for Budget Committee, Select Board, School Board, etc. are due on April 11.

14. Adjournment

Kathy Martin-Savage moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Vote 5-0-0.